



NICK MACCHIONE, MS, MPH, FACHE
DIRECTOR

County of San Diego
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

SUSAN BOWER, MSW, MPH
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

ALFREDO AGUIRRE, LCSW
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTOR

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION
3255 CAMINO DEL RIO SOUTH, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92108
(619) 563-2700 • FAX (619) 563-2705

MICHAEL S. KRELSTEIN, MD
CLINICAL DIRECTOR

June 24, 2013

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency's Behavioral Health Services (BHS) is pleased to introduce *Beyond the Talk: A Resource Toolkit to Bridge the Cultural Gap*. The toolkit is designed to provide agencies, behavioral health organizations and community stakeholder groups with a brief overview, recommendations across the five populations represented by the California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP) reports, and tools to reduce disparities in their communities.

This toolkit is both a call to action and a resource guide to assist behavioral health agencies and the community at large. The tools were developed to "bridge the gap" between words and actions and to continue the commitment to eliminating disparities in diverse communities.

The Cultural Competence & Mental Health (CCMH) Southern Region Summit XVIII answered the call to reduce behavioral health disparities for all underserved communities by presenting community informed practices that address behavioral health care through prevention and early intervention strategies with keynote talks, institutes, workshops, and media advocacy showcases that complemented the work of the CRDP. The toolkit is the compilation of this effort. Collaboration and partnerships will facilitate the call to action.

Sincerely,

ALFREDO AGUIRRE, LCSW
Director

PIEDAD GARCIA, Ed.D., LCSW
Assistant Deputy Director